



## FIFTEEN YEARS OF CHRISTIAN A-V SERVICE IN KOREA

Nightly in six areas of South Korea crowds gather to see and hear the message of Christ through Audio-Visual aids. The year of 1963 marks the fifteenth birthday of the work of the Korean National Christian Council's Audio-visual Committee known as KAVCO.

### BEGINNINGS

From its beginning, it has continued its work of making Christ known through audiovisuals during war and peace. From the first, it has been a cooperative venture between the churches of Korea and the churches of North America. Korean ministers and dedicated laymen have worked with missionaries in making this program effective. We are very thankful to God for bringing us to this point in our history.

The office of the Audiovisual Committee was established in Seoul in 1948. Mr. Lee was chosen as the secretary. He managed the small slide film-strip library. He also translated English scripts into the Korean language. Mr. Do Young Ahn, motion picture projectionist, worked out of Seoul by whatever means of transportation he could manage. In the Wonju area. Mr. Jin Whan Kim went about from church to church and school to school by bus, train or ox-cart, showing his Christian films. Everywhere the programs were received with enthusiasm.

### WAR YEARS

When the North Korean Communists invaded South Korea, in June 1950, Mr. Lee, the Secretary of the Seoul office, was kidnapped along with some forty other Christian leaders, and has not been heard from again. Mr. Ahn, the Seoul projectionist, fled south with his family carrying his projector and Bible films holding meetings among the refugees whenever possible. Mr. Ahn died three months later.

Mr. Kim buried his projector and film by his home in Wonju and fled to the hills. Later, under cover of night, he returned dug up his equipment and fled south. In the Pusan Perimeter he covered the refugee camps and churches. Later an evangelistic team was organized to cover the refugee islands of Koje and Cheju. Gospel films were used as a basic part of the program. During this time, also, a silk screen set of pictures of the story of the Prodigal Son drawn in a Korean setting was produced.

### ARMISTICE

With the signing of the cease-fire agreement in the summer of 1953 Christian institutions and projects began to return to Seoul. KAVCO followed and re-established its headquarters in the rehabilitated building which had been burned out by the retreating Communists.

### A-V MOBILE UNITS

Ox-carts and busses now gave way to fully equipped mobile units with generators projectors and screens. The first was donated by the United Presbyterian USA Mission for work in the Taegu area in 1951. The second unit was given by the Womans Division of Christian Service of the Methodist Church which was assigned to the Seoul area in 1954. A third unit was made possible in Wonju by the Division of World Missions of the Methodist Church in 1957. A fourth was put into service by the United Presbyterian Church USA in the Chungju area in 1961. A fifth then began operation in the Soonchon area through the kindness of the Presbyterian U.S. Mission in 1962. The United Church of Canada Mission in 1963 has now made a mobile unit program possible in the Pusan area which makes six in the field. With these we are now realizing a plan made in the Fall of 1950 by the Korea Committee at Stonybrook, Long Island, when six A-V Mobile Units were planned for use by the churches in Post-Invasion South Korea. If and when North Korea opens again, we hope that the full plan for four additional A-V Mobile Units in North Korea may be realized making a total of ten!

In 1962, the five units in the field at that time reported 630 showings to an estimated audience of 425,247 people. When the services were held for the purpose of evangelism, 251 persons were reported to have responded as "inquirers". Many of the showings were held for the purpose of Christian education and worship.

The films used in these showings are Bible and Christianity in life films which have been magnetic striped and then recorded with a Korean dramatic sound track. This type of film, including full-length features such as JOHN WESLEY and MARTIN LUTHER have been the kind used in the mobile units since 1954 with very good results. With six units in the field now, we are in great need of more films to keep up with the greater demand.

### WORKSHOPS

Training the leadership in the churches has continued to be one of the most important functions of KAVCO. Instruction in the use of simple A-V aids such as pictures, maps sequence picture stories and flannelgraph has been given. Training in the use of the side-filmstrip projector has also been presented with each student learning by doing.

During 1962 there were 62 workshops held in all parts of south Korea with a total of 2,916 persons in them. KAVCO also advised Ewha Womans University in setting up a course in Audiovisuals for Christian Education workers and then assisted by recommending experts for blocks of time in the teaching. The Methodist Theological Seminary made time available for the second successive year for elective courses to be taught in the spring and fall semesters to 64 beginners and 36 advanced students in their seminary.





Drama workshops have also been held by the KAVCO Christian Drama Sub-Committee. For five years this Committee has been promoting the use of Christian Drama in the sanctuaries of the churches. They have expanded their sets of Hebrew costumes and helped scores of churches and institutions by providing costumes, training and scripts for their productions.

#### **SIMPLE AIDS**

The Seoul KAVCO Center loans films, slides, filmstrips, picture story sets (Kamishibai) and flannelgraph stories. It also produces these for sale. A book on the technique of the use of audiovisuals in Christian education and general church work has been published. During 1962 the limited number of slide filmstrip projectors were loaned 76 times with over 10,000 people seeing the Christian material projected. Our filmstrip library loaned out 160 filmstrips and slide sets with a reported 18,900 children, youth and adults viewing them.

#### **TELEVISION**

In 1956-1957 until the Commercial TV station burned, KAVCO televised many of its films, gave flannelgraph and hand puppet stories and other live programs on free Public Service time. With the founding of a government station the KAVCO Television Sub-Committee has televised thirty-eight Christian programs during 1962. Public Service time ranging from fifteen minutes to forty-five minutes was given for our programs of choirs, panel discussions, dramas and films. TV has helped us reach a new audience with our visual aids. We are very thankful for this new means of witness in Korea to-day.

#### **SUPPORT**

In winning new converts, in building favorable attitudes toward the Christian Church, in the training of church leaders, and spreading the Gospel message for all of life, KAVCO has been a useful tool of the Church. Korean churches give what they can to support the teams as they visit their villages. However, this falls far short of meeting expenses. The churches of Canada and the United States are urged to continue and increase their support. In spite of war and revolutions, the opportunity to witness has remained almost unlimited. Much more needs to be done, more can be done through the prayers and help of the many friends of Korea.

Inquiries and gifts may be sent to: Korea A-V, RAVEMCCO, Inter-Church Building, 475 Riverside Drive, New York 27, N.Y. or to: Director, KNCC A-V Service, 91 Chong No, 2Ka, Seoul, Korea.

#### **THE TOTAL FROM 1948 TO 1962**

##### **Picture Program-**

Times:	6,795
Audience:	5,708,676
"Inquirers"	12,579

##### **Slide-Filmstrips**

Times loaned:	2,939
Audience:	279,364

##### **Workshops**

Number of Days:	422
Enrollment:	17,260
Slide-FS "Projectionist"	
cards issued:	484

We are humbly thankful to God for this opportunity to witness and to have a part in the nurture of the Christians during these past FIFTEEN YEARS!